

Reference No. 6.18

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AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, MARCH QUARTER 1975

MAIN FEATURES

- Seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings per employed male unit were \$152.20 during the March quarter 1975.
- This was an increase of 3.5 per cent over the estimate for the December quarter 1974 and 27.5 per cent over March quarter 1974.
- The original (i.e. unadjusted) estimate for the March quarter 1975 was \$143.60, \$10.60 lower than the figure for the December quarter. However March quarter estimates are usually lower than those for the December quarter because of seasonal influences (see paragraph 6.).

Introduction

This publication presents estimates of average weekly earnings of civilian wage and salary earners. Earnings figures for Australia are shown for March quarter 1975 and for preceding quarters back to September quarter 1966, as well as for the financial years 1966-67 to 1973-74. Data referring to each State and Territory are shown for December quarter 1973 to March quarter 1975. Figures for each State for the financial years 1966-67 to 1973-74 are also shown.

Definition of earnings

2. The earnings figures used in the calculation of the averages comprise award and over-award wages and salaries, the earnings of employees not covered by awards, overtime earnings, bonuses and allowances, commissions, directors' fees and payments made retrospectively or in advance during the quarter. Earnings of part-time as well as full-time employees, and of juniors as well as adults, are included.

Method of estimation

3. For industries other than agriculture and private domestic service, particulars of employment and wages and salaries are derived from payroll tax returns and from direct returns from government and other bodies.

These returns account for approximately 90 per cent of wage and salary earners in these industries, as published monthly in the bulletin *Employment and Unemployment* (Reference No. 6.4). Estimates are made for the unrecorded balance in terms of both numbers and earnings. The level of average earnings estimated for the unrecorded sector is approximately 80 per cent of the level shown by the direct returns. For agriculture and private domestic service, employment and earnings are estimated from other sources and are included in the calculations.

4. For employees reported on more than one payroll, all reported wage and salary earnings are included in calculation of the averages.

Male units

5. Particulars of wages and salaries paid are not available for males and females separately from the sources used for this series; average weekly earnings have therefore been calculated in terms of *male units*, i.e. total male employees plus a proportion of female employees, the proportion being derived from the estimated ratio of female to male average earnings. Different ratios of female to male average earnings are used for individual States, based on information from annual surveys of weekly earnings and hours and other sources. Ratios used for the current quarter are as follows: New South Wales 64 per cent, Victoria 64, Queensland 62, South Australia 61, Western Australia 59, Tasmania 64, the Northern Territory 64, and the Australian Capital Territory 60. As the number of male units used in calculating Australian average weekly earnings is the sum of the estimates for the States and Territories, a separate ratio for Australia is not used, but the weighted average of the State and Territory ratios is approximately 63.0 per cent. Changes in these ratios may be necessary from one quarter to the next to reflect, for example, the extension of equal pay provisions, or appreciable and sustained changes in the levels of male overtime earnings. However, small differences in these ratios have relatively little effect on the earnings figures; if the ratio is understated by one per cent then average weekly earnings of \$150 would be overstated by about 60 cents.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

6. Quarterly figures are affected by seasonal influences. For example, special payments, including prepayment for holiday periods, tend to raise the December quarter and to depress the March quarter averages. In addition, figures are affected by the varying number of pay-days in different quarters, (with the exception of Australian Government paydays in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, for which special adjustments have been made in the original series.) Allowance for these variations, and for

recurring seasonal influences, has been made in calculating the seasonally adjusted estimates for all series shown in the tables.

7. The seasonal adjustment factors were derived from a series from which the influence of major changes in awards and determinations and estimates of the effects of pay-day variations had first been removed. While the seasonally adjusted series retain the effect of the major award etc. changes, the pay-day effect is excluded. A detailed description of the methods of seasonal adjustment will be given in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, 1975* (Reference No. 1.10), to be issued shortly.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) AUSTRALIA
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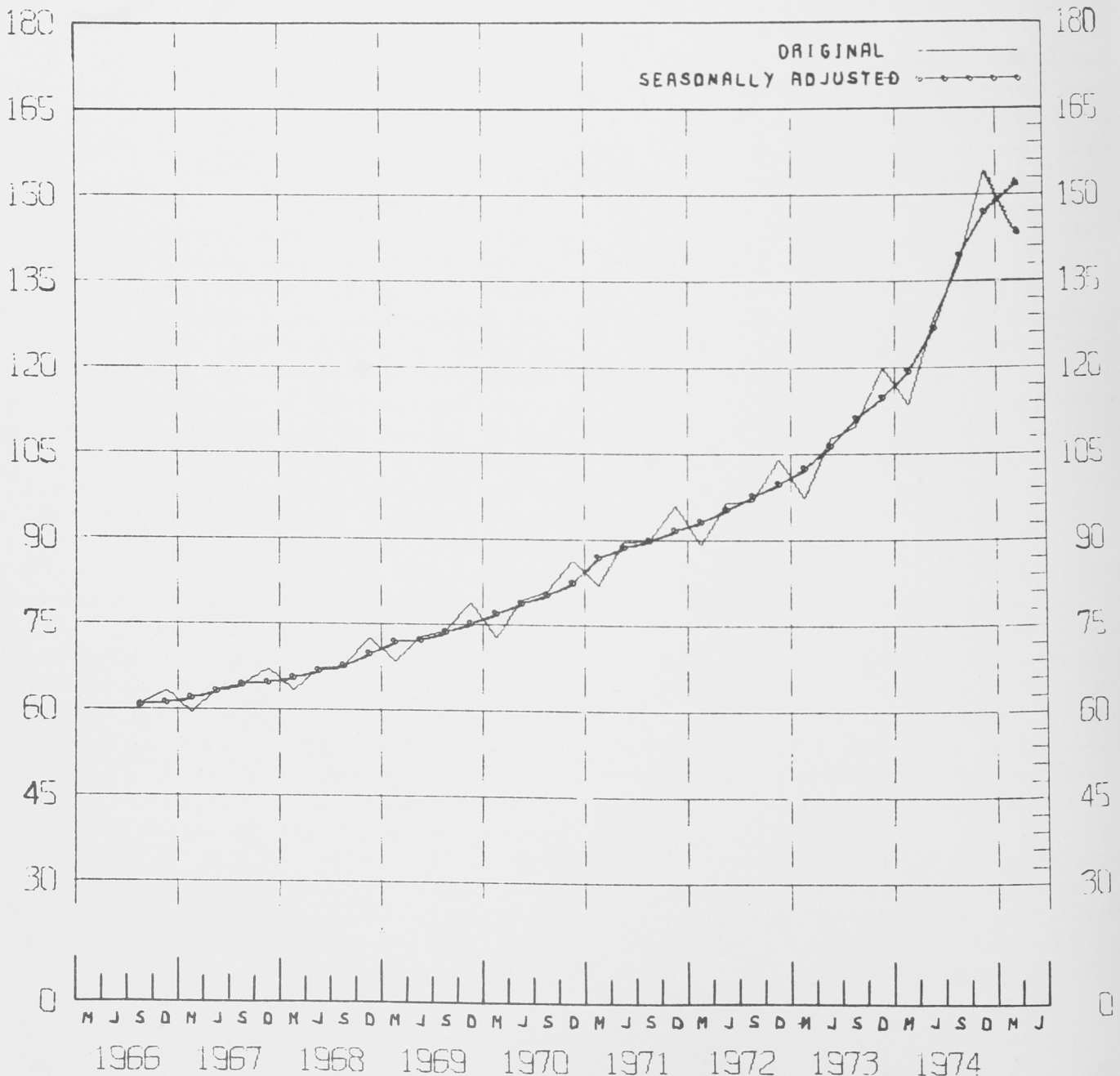


TABLE 1. — AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : AUSTRALIA

Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted (b) \$	Quarterly change (c) %	Annual change (d) %	Quarter	Original \$	Seasonally adjusted (b) \$	Quarterly change (c) %	Annual change (d) %
1966 —					1971 —				
September	61.10	60.90	+4.3	+5.9	March	82.00	86.90	+5.3	+12.6
December	63.30	61.30	+0.7	+6.8	June	89.80	88.70	+2.1	+12.4
1967 —					September	90.00	90.00	+1.5	+11.9
March	59.50	62.20	+1.5	+6.0	December	96.00	91.70	+1.9	+11.2
June	63.70	63.30	+1.8	+8.4	1972 —				
September	64.40	64.40	+1.7	+5.7	March	89.20	93.40	+1.9	+7.5
December	67.10	64.90	+0.8	+5.9	June	96.70	95.40	+2.1	+7.6
1968 —					September	96.80	97.90	+2.6	+8.8
March	63.20	65.80	+1.4	+5.8	December	104.10	99.80	+1.9	+8.8
June	67.30	66.90	+1.7	+5.7	1973 —				
September	67.80	67.90	+1.5	+5.4	March	97.20	102.50	+2.7	+9.7
December	72.50	69.80	+2.8	+7.6	June	107.80	106.40	+3.8	+11.5
1969 —					September	110.20	111.30	+4.6	+13.7
March	68.50	72.10	+3.3	+9.6	December	119.90	115.00	+3.3	+15.2
June	72.80	72.30	+0.3	+8.1	1974 —				
September	74.10	73.90	+2.2	+8.8	March	113.30	119.40	+3.8	+16.5
December	79.00	75.30	+1.9	+7.9	June	128.50	126.80	+6.2	+19.2
1970 —					September	137.90	139.50	+10.0	+25.3
March	72.70	77.20	+2.5	+7.1	December	154.20	147.10	+5.4	+27.9
June	79.40	78.90	+2.2	+9.1	1975 —				
September	80.90	80.40	+1.9	+8.8	March	143.60	152.20	+3.5	+27.5
December	86.30	82.50	+2.6	+9.6					

(a) See explanation in paragraph 5 on page 1. (b) See paragraphs 6 and 7 on page 2. (c) Percentage change over previous quarter in the seasonally adjusted series. (d) Percentage change over same quarter of previous year in the seasonally adjusted series.

NOTE. The seasonally adjusted series has been revised following the annual re-analysis of data.

TABLE 2. — AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT (a) : STATES AND TERRITORIES (\$)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.(b)	A.C.T.(b)	Australia
1966-67	63.30	64.10	57.30	57.30	59.40	58.50	..	..	61.90
1967-68	66.70	67.80	60.30	60.60	64.10	62.00	..	..	65.50
1968-69	72.30	72.40	64.50	64.80	69.00	65.70	..	..	70.40
1969-70	78.50	78.40	69.40	70.30	75.70	70.90	..	..	76.30
1970-71	87.30	86.40	78.00	77.20	84.90	78.50	..	..	84.80
1971-72	95.90	93.60	87.00	85.30	93.70	86.80	..	..	93.00
1972-73	104.30	102.50	97.00	93.00	99.00	94.40	..	..	101.50
1973-74	r121.00	118.40	112.60	r110.60	r115.50	r110.20	..	..	118.00
Original Series									
1973 —									
Dec. qtr	123.00	120.90	114.10	110.90	115.00	116.10	137.80	143.50	119.90
1974 —									
Mar. qtr	116.70	112.50	108.00	106.60	111.80	101.50	139.60	146.50	113.30
June qtr	131.60	127.80	123.70	121.90	126.10	120.40	140.80	157.90	128.50
Sept. qtr	141.10	138.70	131.80	131.00	135.50	126.40	162.10	175.10	137.90
Dec. qtr	158.20	155.30	148.60	143.80	147.90	145.30	163.10	181.00	154.20
1975 —									
Mar. qtr	147.20	143.30	135.60	137.60	144.20	134.00	(d)174.20	188.60	143.60
Seasonally Adjusted Series (c)									
1973 —									
Dec. qtr	117.70	115.70	110.00	107.40	112.20	109.30	136.90	143.00	115.00
1974 —									
Mar. qtr	122.90	119.40	113.60	111.90	116.30	109.40	139.50	150.20	119.40
June qtr	129.40	126.10	121.90	120.20	125.00	117.70	147.00	156.50	126.80
Sept. qtr	143.70	139.40	133.30	131.10	135.40	129.40	157.20	175.10	139.50
Dec. qtr	150.60	148.30	141.90	139.40	144.20	135.00	161.70	181.90	147.10
1975 —									
Mar. qtr	155.70	152.60	144.10	144.20	150.00	146.50	(d)179.00	192.30	152.20

(a) See explanation in paragraph 5 on page 1. (b) Original series estimates for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory have been calculated on a basis which excludes the effects of varying numbers of Australian Government pay days in each quarter. (c) See NOTE above. See also paragraphs 6 and 7 on page 2. (d) Subject to revision. Special estimation procedures were necessary due to a lack of data following cyclone Tracy. r — revised.

J. P. O'NEILL
Commonwealth Statistician

Australian Bureau of Statistics
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr J. Christensen on 63 9111 extension 2350 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.